

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 1 – 10, 14 – 16 and 19.

(All the pending claims are here under reproduced).

1 – 10. (Canceled)

11. (Amended) ~~The medium caliber ammunition of claim 9, further comprising~~ In an automatic or semi-automatic weapon having a dense powder ballast and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and gas pressure resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast activates a reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such weapon has a muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use in such weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;
a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and;
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and a metal alloy.

12. (Amended) ~~The medium caliber ammunition of claim 11, further comprising~~ In an automatic or semi-automatic weapon having a dense powder ballast and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and gas pressure resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast activates a reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such weapon has a muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use in such weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;

a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a
predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said
ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in
part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and
a metal alloy; and wherein the ammunition further comprises a ballast
cup that decomposes and disintegrates after exiting a muzzle the muzzle
end of the weapon after firing, within a pre-determined distance of the
muzzle end, dispersing the plurality of projectile balls at the muzzle
velocity.

13.(Amended) ~~The medium caliber cartridge case of claim 12,~~ In an
automatic or semi-automatic smooth bore weapon having a dense
powder ballast and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and
gas pressure resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast
activates a reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such
weapon has a muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use
in such weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;
a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a
predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said
ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in
part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and
a metal alloy; wherein the ammunition further comprises a ballast cup
that decomposes and disintegrates within a pre-determined distance of
exiting the muzzle end after firing, dispersing the plurality of projectile
balls at the muzzle velocity, and wherein the ballast cup comprises a
rotating band and a spiral to develop a spin in a rifled cartridge case for
firing from a smooth bore weapon in said ammunition upon firing
thereof.

14 - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Amended) ~~The medium caliber ammunition of claim 16,~~ In an automatic or semi-automatic weapon having a dense powder ballast and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and gas pressure resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast activates a reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such weapon has a muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use in such weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;
a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and a metal alloy; wherein the ammunition further comprises a ballast cup that decomposes and disintegrates within a pre-determined distance of exiting the muzzle end after firing, dispersing the plurality of projectile balls at the muzzle velocity; and wherein the ammunition further comprises an end cap, a polymer cover, and a gas seal; and wherein the polymer cover separates an interior of the ~~medium caliber~~ cartridge case into a fore section and an aft section, with the ballast cup containing the ballast material in the aft section.

18. (Amended) ~~The medium caliber ammunition of claim 17,~~ In an automatic or semi-automatic weapon having a dense powder ballast and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and gas pressure resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast activates a reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such weapon has a muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use in such weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;
a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a
predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said
ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in
part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and
a metal alloy; wherein the ammunition further comprises a ballast cup
that decomposes and disintegrates within a pre-determined distance of
exiting the muzzle end after firing, dispersing the plurality of projectile
balls at the muzzle velocity; and wherein the ammunition further
comprises an end cap, a polymer cover, and a gas seal; and wherein the
polymer cover separates an interior of the cartridge case into a fore
section and an aft section, with the ballast cup containing the ballast
material in the aft section, and wherein the fore section contains the
plurality of projectile balls.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Amended) ~~The medium caliber ammunition of claim 17,~~
In an automatic or semi-automatic weapon having a dense powder ballast
and a firing sequence, and wherein a recoil impulse and gas pressure
resulting from a launch of such dense powder ballast activates a
reloading mechanism of the weapon, and wherein such weapon has a
muzzle end thereof; a medium caliber ammunition for use in such
weapon, said ammunition comprising:

projectile balls within said ammunition;
a projectile propellant charge for launching said projectile balls;
a propellant charge for launching said dense powder ballast, and
wherein the projectile balls achieve a muzzle velocity within a
predetermined distance of the weapon's muzzle, and wherein said
ammunition further comprises: a cartridge case that is made, at least in
part, of a material that is selected from the group consisting of metal and
a metal alloy; wherein the ammunition further comprises a ballast cup

that decomposes and disintegrates within a pre-determined distance of exiting the muzzle end after firing, dispersing the plurality of projectile balls at the muzzle velocity; and wherein the ammunition further comprises an end cap, a polymer cover, and a gas seal; and wherein the polymer cover separates an interior of the cartridge case into a fore section and an aft section, with the ballast cup containing the ballast material in the aft section, and wherein the aft section contains the primer, the projectile propellant charge, the weapon powering propellant charge, and the dense powder ballast.